

New Family Income Limit Starting October 1, 2010 for Working Connections and Seasonal Child Care Subsidies

Eligibility for the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) and Seasonal Child Care (SCC) subsidy programs will be reduced to 175 percent of the Federal Poverty Level effective October 1, 2010. This program helps low-income families pay for child care while adults work, look for work or attend training. The chart below shows the new limits.

| Family Size | Starting October 1, 2010 | Until September 30, 2010 |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 (child only case) | \$1580 | \$1806 |
| 2 | \$2125 | \$2428 |
| 3 | \$2671 | \$3052 |
| 4 | \$3217 | \$3676 |
| 5 | \$3761 | \$4298 |
| 6 | \$4307 | \$4922 |
| 7 | \$4853 | \$5546 |
| 8 | \$5397 | \$6168 |
| 9 | \$5943 | \$6792 |
| 10 | \$6489 | \$7416 |

How many families may lose child care benefits? About 2,500 families will lose child care benefits under the new income limit.

Will all these families lose benefits right away? No. The lower income limit will be phased-in starting October 1, 2010. The new income limit will be used when families first apply for WCCC or SCC, or when they reapply for benefits at the end of their current eligibility period.

When would my family know how soon this would affect us? Families who get WCCC or SCC receive a reminder letter about 45 days before their eligibility period ends. The new income limit will be used to determine if the family is still eligible at reapplication.

Why is the state cutting child care subsidies for families? The change is part of \$51 million in cuts to the WorkFirst program for the rest of state fiscal year 2011. WorkFirst is our state's "welfare to work" program, which helps low-income families become self-sufficient through training and support services. Gov. Chris Gregoire announced the cuts in August, as a result of increased WorkFirst demand and decreased state resources. Cuts to WCCC are expected to save about \$16.8 million.

For more information about DEL child care subsidy programs, visit: www.del.wa.gov/care/help